Maintenance shut downs to the Refineries

513. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN; SHRI VIREN I. SHAH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian refineries have planned a series of maintenance shut downs in 1995;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regaird;

(c) what are the details of main* tenance sihut downs, the duration of each shut down and the expenditure incurred during each of the last three years in respect of each refinery, and

(d) what safeguards have been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government to ensure that the re gujar supply of oil in. the country is not affected by these shut downs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN . SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) Maintenance shutdowns of the various units of the refinery are planned according to requirenment and normally ranges from 20 to 30 days It is part of normal refinery operation and maintenance practices. Such main-, tenance shutdowns of the refineries have also been planned for 1995.

Shutdowns are planned and staggered in such a way that overall availabiliity of petroleum products is not affected. Maintenance cost of the refineries is monitored on overall basis.

Introductions of lead free petrol

514. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Witt the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to introduce lead free petrol in four Metropolitan cities from April 1995]

(b) if so the reasons therefor;

(c) whether scientists are divided about the utility of lead free peterols

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether lead-free petrol is likely to increase the emission of aromatic hydrocarbons which are equally or more harmful as lead?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT- SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir Government have decided to introduce lead-free pettrol- in four metro-politan cities wef- 1-4-95 through some selected number of petrol pumps to meet the demand of petrol driven vehicles fitted with catalytic converters to reduce toxic emission-

(b) to (e) There is a general census among the scientists that lead 'free petrol would be desirable provided catalytic converters are installed in the patrol driven cars- Generally, unleaded petrol contains more aromatics and. use of such petrol without catalytic converter is not desirable-

ABocation off gas to Fertilizer unite along HBJ, pipeline

515. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN; Will the Minister of PETROLIUM AND NATURAL GAS be plowed- to- state;

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to increase the allocation . of natural gas for the fertilizer units along HBJ pipeline; ..

(b) if so, the derails thereof; and'

(c)- the - quantum- of increase in. 1994 as compared to 1593?